

Lincoln Day Souvenir—1908




You find us ever
A. Lincoln

BORN FEBRUARY 12, 1809

DIED APRIL 15, 1865

PRESIDENT 1861-1865

[The finest specimen of English composition in the language, engraved as such on a tablet at Oxford University.]  Simplified Spelling.

EXECUTIV MANSION

WASHINGTON, NOV. 21, 1864.

TO MRS. BIXBY, BOSTON, MASS.

Dear Madam:

I hav been shown in the files of the War Department a statement of the Adjutant General of Massachusetts that you ar the mother of five sons who died gloriously on the field of batl. I feel how weak and fruitles must be any word of mine which should attempt to begile you from the grief of a los so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the republic they died to save. I pray that our Heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavment and leav you only the cherisht memory of the luvd and lost, and the solem pride that must be yours to hav laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of fredom.

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,

A. LINCOLN.

Fourscore and seven years ago, our fathers bro't forth upon this continent a new nation, conceivd in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men ar created equal. Now we ar engaged in a great civil war testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceivd and so dedicated, can long endure. We ar met on a great batl-field of that war. We ar met to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place of those who here gave their lives that that nation might liv. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But in a larger sens we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men living and ded, who strugld here, hav consecrated it far abuv our power to ad or detract. The world wil litl note, nor long remember, what *we say* here, but it can never forget what *they did* here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here hav thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us,—that from these honord ded we take increast devotion to that caus for which they here gave the last ful mezure of devotion,—that we here highly resolv that these ded shal not hav died in vain,—that this nation, under God, shal hav a new birth of fredom,—and that government of the peple, by the peple, for the peple shal not perish from the erth.

*"It is my constant anxiety and prayer that I
and this nation should be on the Lord's side."*

A. LINCOLN.

*"With malice toward none, with Charity for all,
with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the
right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in."*

A. LINCOLN,
Second Inaugural Address.

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